

Indian Child and Family Services

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Indian Child and Family Services Temecula, CA

Indian Child and Family Services (ICFS) is one of the first Indian Child Welfare Programs, developed in 1980 through the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Title II funding. The mission of ICFS is to protect, preserve and promote American Indian families. ICFS has been providing services to American Indian families for well over 20 years. Services include a family preservation program, a licensed foster family agency, an adoptions program, a relative placement program and a clinical program. Clinical services include culturally adapted, evidence based, in-home and group based parenting training services, child social skills groups, child cultural storytelling groups, an Indian Girls Group, parent child interaction therapy, and court advocacy and case management.

Current Programs Offered to the American Indian Community by ICFS

Foster Parenting

Children are precious resources. They represent our heritage, our hope, and our future. Every child needs and deserves a loving and stable family. Unfortunately, some children cannot live with their biological families due to abuse, neglect, and/or severe family disruption. These children desperately need good foster homes. Foster families play an important role in the lives of children. They provide children with a safe and loving home until they can be reunited with their own families or attain permanent placement. If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a foster parent or adopting a child, please call Allison Trefry at 1-800-969-4237 ext. 28.

SPIRIT Project

SPIRIT stands for Self Esteem, Purpose, Independence, Respect and Indian Tradition. The SPIRIT Project's focus is on protecting American Indian children and helping them walk a healthy path through life. It is designed to support American Indian families in raising happy, healthy children and preventing adolescent drug and alcohol use by nurturing children's cultural pride, reading readiness, independence and respect for self, others and the world. Children will participate in a 9-week American Indian cultural storytelling group that includes American Indian stories and crafts, transportation to the group, refreshments, and parenting support and family strengthening activities. Families are paid for their participation in the assessment. Participant children must be between 4-8 years old, be of American Indian ancestry, and live with at least one parent or permanent relative guardian. To find out more about this program call Diane Kalp at 1-800-969-4237 ext. 19.

The Incredible Years Dinosaur School

Children aged 4-9 can participate in a children's social skills group called "Dinosaur School." In this group children learn how to identify and express their feelings, how to get along well with others, how to do well in school, and work on improving problem behaviors and increasing good behaviors. This group has been shown to promote social competence and reduce risk for substance abuse and delinquency problems in

adolescence. To find out more about this program call Cheryl Benetiz at 1-800-969-4237 ext. 25.

The Incredible Years Program

This program is a compliment to the Dinosaur child group and is designed to support parents in becoming mentors for their children. Goals include promoting social competence in children, building self esteem in parent and child, reducing parenting stress and preventing later youth problems with substance abuse and delinquency. To find out more about this program call Cheryl Benetiz at 1-800-969-4237 ext. 25.

Adolescent Transitions Training Program

This program is designed to help parents ease the transition of pre-adolescence and prevent adolescent entry into substance abuse and delinquency. It is also designed to promote positive school development and family relationships by working with parents as mentors for their children. To find out more about this program contact Hollie Simkins at 1-800-969-4237 ext. 17.

American Indian Girls Group

Girls between the ages of 9-14 who are interested in applying themselves in school are eligible for this group. In this group, girls work on personal goals, community volunteer projects, self care, school success, anger management, communication skills, drug free living, and leadership skills. All group requirements are related to protective factors that have been found to reduce risks for youth entering adolescence. To find out more about this program contact Hollie Simkins at 1-800-969-4237 ext. 17.

Nemingkim: All My Relations

Nemingkim: All My Relations is a culturally adapted family focused treatment foster care and after care program. Upon foster parent certification 1-2 children are placed in each home. Foster parents are seen as part of the professional treatment team. The goals of Nemingkim: All My Relations are to 1.)Enable children to heal from trauma and develop resilience, 2.)Improve caretaker-child relationships, 3.)Stop the cycle of child abuse and 4.)Promote optimal development. Focusing on families and parenting practices is the primary method of prevention and intervention. This intervention is being evaluated to determine effectiveness.